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(71) Applicant: Pitney Bowes Inc.  
Stamford, Connecticut 06826-0700 (US)

(72) Inventors:  
• Pintsov, Leon A.  
West Hartford, CT 06117 (US)

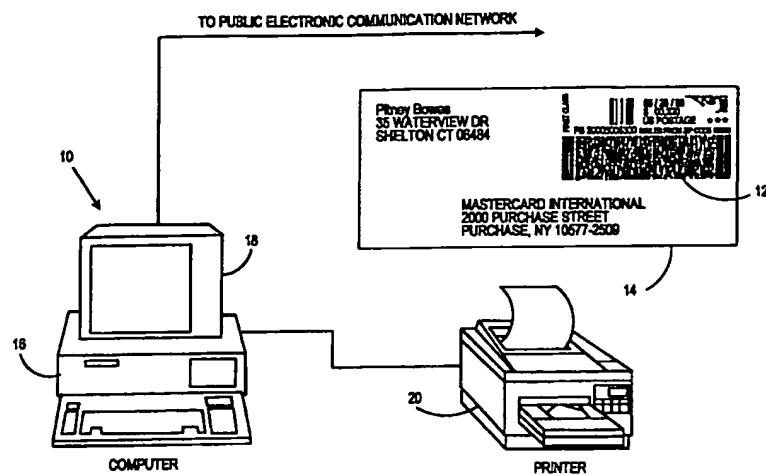
- Biasi, Theresa  
Shelton, CT 06484 (US)
- Joshi, Shirish S.  
Fairfield, CT 06851 (US)
- Ryan, Jr., Frederick W.  
Oxford, CT 06478 (US)

(74) Representative: HOFFMANN - EITLE  
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte  
Arabellastrasse 4  
81925 München (DE)

(54) **System and method for employing digital postage marks as part of value-added services in a mailing system**

(57) System and method for providing confirmation relating to the distribution of a mailpiece (14) within a mailing system includes a determination of postal data required for postage evidencing of a mailpiece originated by a mailer. The postal data is combined with other data related to value-added services desired for the mailpiece. The value-added services data includes addressing information for a return receipt to the mailer. A digital postmark (12) which includes the postal data and the value-added services data is created. At delivery of the mailpiece, the digital postmark (12) is read and the value-added services data is captured from the read digital postmark. A confirmation message is sent to the mailer and/or other interested third parties, in accordance with information contained in the value-added services data.

FIG. 1





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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 3055

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THE HAGUE	10 November 2000		Kirsten, K		
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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